

30. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said racing space is formed in the interior of the ball casing and said limiter is a friction rough surface formed on a surface in the racing space--

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-13, 15-16, 18, 21 and 24-30 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 24 and 28 are independent. Claims 4, 6, 11, 14, 17, 19-20 and 22-23 are canceled. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 21 are amended.

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 6-9, 11, 14 and 17 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6. The other amendments to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 18 and 21 have been made to place the claims in better form for U.S. practice and do not further narrow the claims.

New claims 24-30 are supported by the specification and are patentable over the prior art of record.

A Drawing Change Authorization Request is submitted for proposed changes to Figs. 7, 9 and 13.

The Examiner stated that a title is needed that is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the title.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1-5, 10 and 12-13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Araki et al. (JP 62-24052).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6, which was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, claim 1 contains allowable subject matter and is patentable over the prior art of record. With respect to dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 10 and 12-13, these claims are patentable for at least the reasons of the corresponding independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of this rejection.

Claims 15, 16 and 19-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Araki et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As stated above, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 6 which has been indicated as allowable. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable. Regarding dependent claims 15-16 and 21, these claims are patentable for at least the reasons as the corresponding independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests removal of this rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 5, 7-10, 12-13, 15-16, 18, 21 and 24-30 are patentable over the relied upon references, and that the application as a whole is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

In the event that any matters remain at issue in the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Northern Virginia area, for the purpose of a telephonic interview.